



4A CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY ASIAN ART PRESENTS

ELLY KENT, CLAUDIA NICHOLSON, TIANLI ZU IN POSSIBLE WORLDS 19 APRIL - 8 JUNE 2013 OPENING EVENT 6PM THUR 18 APRIL 2013

Claudia Nicholson, *Alliance VS Decent*
(work with dentures) (2011), single channel video
2 mins. Courtesy of the artist.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

7/4/13

4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art's (4A) upcoming exhibition, *In Possible Worlds*, to open April 18, alongside launch of 2013 Australian artist residency in Beijing, China

"As we move through the Asian Century, it is important for artists and the cultural sector in Australia to have the opportunity to witness some of the big cultural changes taking shape in the region."

- Aaron Seeto, Director, 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art

4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art continues to champion Australian emerging artists with two major new initiatives announced this week.

The upcoming exhibition, *In Possible Worlds*, part of 4A's Early Career Artist Initiative, brings together a selection of recent works by Australian artists Elly Kent, Claudia Nicholson and Tianli Zu. Developed over a year-long process of curatorial guidance with 4A, these artists were chosen to exhibit by Lisa Havilah, Chief Executive Officer of Carraigeworks and Aaron Seeto, Director of 4A.

Touching on themes of intimacy, dislocation, violence and the pleasures of ordinary life, *In Possible Worlds* encourages us open up to the possibilities of seeing the world in different ways.

This month 4A will also launch its **2013 Artist Residency Program in Beijing**, a program developed by 4A and the acclaimed Australian Chinese artist Shen Shaomin. Now based in Beijing and having spent almost a decade in Australia, Shen has received critical success with exhibitions of his work shown in New York, London and Hong Kong. Through the initiative Shen and 4A are keen to give three younger Australian artists the opportunity to access new cultural networks as well as establishing productive connections between China and Australia.

This exciting initiative gives three emerging Australian artists, selected through a competitive application process, to be based for one month from September 2013 at Shen Shaomin's studios in Beijing, presently China's most vibrant epicentre for contemporary art.

Being able to create professional capacity for Australian artists to engage with the Asia-Pacific now and in the future is a core ideal of 4A. As Director Aaron Seeto says,

"Our intention is based on giving young, creative Australians access to our networks, knowledge and expertise that will allow the conversation that 4A has developed between Australia and Asia, over the last decade-and-a-half, to be further enhanced."

In Possible Worlds Artists available for interview on request.

For all media inquiries please contact Hannah Skrzynski at hannah@4a.com.au or 0412 825 586.

For more information on 4A's Artist Residency Program, contact Yu Ye Wu at yuye.wu@4a.com.au or 02 9212 0380.

Impossible Worlds artists

Elly Kent

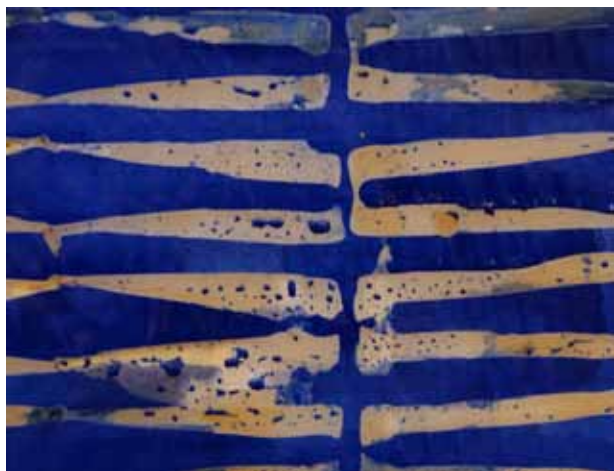
Elly Kent's works on paper draw on her knowledge of traditional Indonesian batik practices – a skill she learnt during her studies at the Indonesian Institute of Art in Yogyakarta. Kent re-contextualises batik processes by creating patterns using familiar everyday objects. Crafting stamps out of domestic utensils sourced from her home Kent prints the same object repetitively onto strips of paper that are then dyed, stitched together and stretched over door and window frames.

Claudia Nicholson

Born in Colombia and raised in Australia, Claudia Nicholson occupies an ambiguous position between Australian and Latino cultures. Interested in the social functions of folklore and myth surrounding pregnancy and childbirth, Nicholson works extensively with her family, using performance to comment on social attributes pertaining to kinship and familial relationships.

Tianli Zu

Fascinated by the powerful potential of shadows, Tianli Zu's works draws inspiration from Chinese traditional paper cutting techniques. Her large-scale intricate paper cuts and animations are inspired by human and organic forms and genitalia.



Elly Kent, *Diverge* (2012-13), batik wax, machine stitching concrete oxides on paper, found door and window frames, dimensions variable. Private collection. Courtesy of the artist.



Tianli Zu, *White Shadows* (2013), (detail) acrylic on acetate film, handcut, and light projection and animation dimensions variable. Courtesy of the artist.



4A Residency Program

4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art has established a one month studio residency program for three emerging Australian artists at Shen Shaomin's expansive artist studios in Beijing. 4A will soon open applications for the residency commencing in September 2013.

While presentation of new work is not an outcome, this residency provides a great opportunity for the selected artist to research and to develop new projects and networks in rich cultural surroundings. Applications will open on 18 April and available for download from 4A's website. The deadline for applications is 31 May 2013.

Shen Shaomin

Over the last twenty years Chinese Australian artist Shen Shaomin has forged an important international career with an emphasis on experimental conceptual and installation works. Based in Beijing and having spent over a decade in Australia Shen's work has enjoyed critical success across international cities, London, New York and Hong Kong.

Shen Shaomin has previously exhibited with 4A at the *Sydney Pavilion, 9th Shanghai Biennale (2012)* and presented a solo exhibition, *The Day After Tomorrow (2011)*. He has presented at major biennales including *Liverpool Biennial (2006)* and the *17th Biennale of Sydney (2010)*. In China he has exhibited at The Today Art Museum, Beijing; Tang Contemporary, Beijing; Platform China, Beijing; Shanghai Zentai Moma, Shanghai Osage; Kwun Tung, Hong Kong. Across Europe and North America selected exhibitions include , Groninger Museum, Holland; Urs Meile Gallery, Switzerland; ZKM Museum Karlsruhe, Germany; Millennium Park, Chicago and Eli Klein Fine Art, New York.



4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art is an initiative of the Asian Australian Artists Association Inc. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of the Commonwealth Government through the Australia Council, its funding and advisory body; the NSW Government through Arts NSW and the City of Sydney. Champions: Kerr and Judith Neilson; Principal Patrons: Daniel and Lyndell Droga; Patrons: Geoff Ainsworth AM, Grasshopper Bar, Johnson Pilton Walker, John Lam-Po-Tang, Dr Gene Sherman AM and Brian Sherman AM, VisAsia and Adrian Williams; Benefactors: AMP Foundation; Andrew Cameron, ARNDT Fine Art, ARTCELL, Richard Funston and Kiong Lee, Simon Mordant AO and Catriona Mordant, Vicky Olsson, Lisa Paulsen, Dr Dick Quan, Julia Champatoloup and Andrew Rothery, The Sky Foundation and Lucy Hughes Turnbull AO; Friends: Brooke and Steve Aitken, Luisa Catanzaro, Ari and Lisa Droga, Choi Ropiha Figuera, Julian and Stephanie Grose, Tonee Holley Knowles and James Knowles, Annette Larkin, Akira and Tomoko Nakayama, Susan Nathan, Becky Sparks and James Roland, Victoria Taylor, Anna Waldmann and Dr John Yu AC.